

REMARKS

The present application was filed on July 23, 2001 with claims 1-23. In the outstanding Office Action dated June 24, 2005, the Examiner has: (i) rejected claims 1-5 and 10-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,817,156 to Bahl et al. (hereinafter "Bahl"); and (ii) indicated that claims 6-9 and 20-23 are allowable.

In this response, claims 1 and 11-15 have been canceled without prejudice, and therefore the rejection of these claims is rendered moot. Applicants retain the right to present these claims in a continuation application. Claims 2-6, 9, 10, 16-20 and 23 have been amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-5 and 10-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Bahl reference. The Examiner contends that Bahl discloses each of the elements set forth in the subject claims. While Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contention in this regard, in the interest of expediency, claims 6, 9, 20 and 23, which were acknowledged by the Examiner as being allowable (Office Action; page 2, first paragraph), have been rewritten into independent form, including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 2-5, 10 and 16-19 have been amended merely to provide proper dependency, as necessitated by the cancellation of claims 1 and 15.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that pending claims 2-10 and 16-23 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §102 rejection.

Respectfully submitted,



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